DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Review of the Emergency Alert System	)	EB Docket No. 04-296
	)	
	)	

To: The Commission

While I have filed a reply comment to the EB Docket 04-296 FNPRM regarding EAS at the end of December last year, and late filings since (2006-02-14 the latest), there is one item of concern which was a problem in New Orleans. This is

1) The inability to effectively distribute EAS messages in more than one language. While this was in part the failure of a Spanish language broadcaster to keep their station on the air, it also illustrates a limitation of the EAS system as presently configured.

Accordingly I wish to submit a proposal to address that issue. It is detailed on the following page. That page can be considered an Appendix C of my previous filing. Appendices A and B would be the Comment on EB Docket 04-296 section and Responses to the Plan Proposal respectively.

In brief, this proposal is to modify the use of the first J in JJJHHMM such that the header code remains unchanged for English, but the interpretation of that first J provides not only the hundreds of Julian calendar days value, but also a code for assigning a language identifier.

Some examples are given to illustrate the flexibility and to consider in applying this beyond North America. The inclusion of a Chinese example is for illustration, there have been no discussions regarding EAS with any communist country, nor are there any intentions to do so without appropriate discussions with the U.S. Government. Neither are there any intentions to discuss this matter with the U.N. or its' agencies such as the I.T.U. without appropriate discussions with the U.S. Government. As the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center in Thailand operates in cooperation with USAID, this is not considered to be U.N. controlled.

This proposed EAS header modification would need consideration by EAS manufacturers and testing to see if unexpected behaviors occurred with currently used software versions in all current encoders/decoders. Accordingly please find attached;

a) A Coding Method for Language Selection.

Sincerely,

Frank W. Bell

App: C A Coding Method for Language Selection

An implication of the New Orleans experience of EAS performance is the desirability to be able to carry different languages. Also an implication of specific message coding is to be able to select appropriate language messages by different users. This means that language identification should be in the EAS header. While the header has everything assigned, a redefinition is proposed for the first J of JJJ, the Julian calendar day of the year. This J at present can only have the ASCII values of 0, 1, 2 or 3. So the proposal is to keep this the same for English. The date only requires the last two bits. So use the first six bits as follows

Binary 000000	Use for National or local language, ASCII 7 bit.
Binary 000001	Use for National or local language, unicode extended data.
Binary 000010 To Binary 001011	To be assigned to multi-country or major languages, 10 codes
Binary 001100	English
Binary 001101	Spanish
Binary 001110	French
Binary 001111 To Binary 011111	To be assigned to multi-country or major languages, 17 codes
Hexadecimal 0x80 To Hexadecimal 0xFF	Reserved to keep 7 bit ASCII format

These characters will read as ASCII "0", "1", "2", "3" for English, "4", "5", "6", "7" for Spanish (i.e. subtract 4 for the date value). "8", "9", ":", ";" for French as the date hundreds change. The rest are more difficult and not a current concern for the U.S. EAS system. However a few examples of multi-country languages are:
German is the language of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, so it needs a code.
Korean is the language of the Republic of Korea and the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, so it needs a code as it is multi-country.
Chinese has many languages/dialects with one writing system. It is used widely in Singapore for example. So to provide the local language option for another spoken language, Chinese needs a code.
Latin is the international language of botany and zoology, so it needs a code.
Esperanto is neither a national or local language, but it is an official language of the U.N. so it needs a code.

As unicode has been proposed, perhaps the languages can be grouped into those that would use extended ASCII and those that would use unicode for the extended data. However U.S. ASCII shall be the basis for the header code e.g. event codes, originators, etc. unless otherwise specified.